

Message Text

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SUBJECT: FNLA DEMANDS THAT ADOLESCENTS BE DISARMED AND PEOPLE
COMMITTEES DISBANDED; DENIES IMMINENT MERGER WITH CHIPENDA

1. SUMMARY. ON FEBRUARY 17 THE FNLA MINISTER OF INTERIOR
N'GOLA KABANGA, GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE ADDRESSED
THE PROBLEM OF ARMED CHILDREN; DENIED THAT CHIPENDA WOULD JOIN
FNLA AND DENOUNCED "POPULAR POWER." END SUMMARY.

2. KABANGA SAID HE WAS SPEAKING NOT AS A GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE,
BUT AS A MEMBER OF THE FNLA POLITICAL BUREAU. HE DENOUNCED
THE ARMING OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS FOR CIVIL WAR AND DEMANDED
IN THE NAME OF THE FNLA THAT THEY BE IMMEDIATELY DISARMED.
KABANGA DID NOT HAVE TO REFER SPECIFICALLY TO ANY GROUP AS
EVERYONE PRESENT KNEW THAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT THE MPLA, WHICH
HAS PASSED OUT LARGE NUMBERS OF WEAPONS TO YOUNG PEOPLE AND HAS
AN ACTIVE TRAINING PROGRAM UNDERWAY FOR THEM. MANY PEOPLE IN
LUANDA CONSIDER THE YOUTHS A MENACE AND THE MATTER WAS BROUGHT TO
A HEAD ON FEBRUARY THREE, WHEN A FOURTEEN YEAR OLD MPLA "SOLDIER"
KILLED TWO PORTUGUESE OFFICERS, AN FNLA SERGEANT AND FIVE
CIVILIANS.

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3. CHIPENDA: A QUESTIONER ASKED ABOUT RUMORS THAT DANIEL CHIPENDA WAS ABOUT TO JOIN THE FNLA, KABANGA REPLIED THAT THE FNLA HAS RECOGNIZED NETO AS THE LEADER OF THE MPLA AND THAT THE RUMORS ARE WITHOUT FOUNDATION.

4. IN ANOTHER REFERENCE TO MPLA, KABANGA SAID THAT THERE IS A MYSTERIOUS FOURTH FORCE AT WORK IN LUANDA, THE SO-CALLED POPULAR, OR PEOPLE'S POWER. KABANGA SAID, "THERE IS TALK, ESPECIALLY IN LUANDA, OF A SUPRANATIONAL POWER, OF A SO-CALLED POPULAR POWER EXERCISED BY ALL THOSE WHO REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE IN THE ANGOLAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS THE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GREAT MASSES OPPRESSED DURING FIVE CENTURIES OF COLONIALISM. THESE ANARCHISTS ARE ORGANIZED ACCORDING TO STRUCTURES IN WHICH THERE ARE SO-CALLED GREAT POPULAR ASSEMBLIES AND PEOPLE'S NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEES. THUS, THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS FIND THEMSELVES CONFRONTED WITH A FOURTH FORCE UNDER MYSTERIOUS DIRECTION CREATED AFTER APRIL 25 AND FOLLOWING THE ORDERS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM AND NEOCOLONIALISM, WHICH WITH THE HELP OF ARMED VAGRANTS, OPPOSE THE LIBERATING ACTIONS OF THE MOVEMENTS AND ATTEMPT TO PLUNGE THE COUNTRY INTO CHAOS AND BY THIS MEANS TRY TO SHOW THAT THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT IS INOPERATIVE...FNLA NOT ONLY OPPOSES ANY GROUPS MADE UP OF APRIL 25 UPSTARTS, BUT ALSO ASKS THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT TO IMMEDIATELY ABOLISH THE SO-CALLED PEOPLES NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEES SO THAT IN EACH NEIGHBORHOOD THERE WILL EXIST ONLY CELLS, SECTIONS, COMMITTEES OR ACTION GROUPS OF EACH ONE OF THE THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.

5. THE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEES SPRANG UP A FEW MONTHS AGO DURING THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. THEY WERE THE BRAINCHILD OF WHITE MPLA ACTIVISTS, WHO TOUTED THEM AS INSTRUMENTS NOT ONLY OF SELF HELP, BUT SELF DEFENSE, AS WELL. IN THE EVENT, THE LEADERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEES INEVITABLY WOUND UP IN THE HANDS OF THE MPLA. I SAW ONE OF THE COMMITTEES IN ACTION DURING CODEL DIGGS VISIT AND I CAN VOUCH FOR THE FACT THAT THEY ARE INDEED MPLA VEHICLES. SOME WEEKS AGO FNLA LOCATED A CLANDESTINE PRESS IN A MUCEQUE USED TO TURN OUT PRO MPLA PROPAGANDA AND BEAT THE DRUMS FOR THE COMMITTEES. A SOURCE HAS TOLD ME THAT THE PRESS WAS OWNED BY THE HUSBAND OF FORMER HIGH COMMISSIONER ROSA COUTINHO'S SECRETARY, FURTHER "PROOF" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR THE ADMIRAL'S ENEMIES, IF THEY NEEDED ANY MORE, OF HIS SUB ROSA ASSISTANCE TO THE MPLA.
KILLORAN

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